



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 15, 1995

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *aa*

RE: Site Inspection, Hecla Mining Company, Apex Mine, M/053/004, Washington County, Utah

Date of Inspection: September 14, 1995
Time of Inspection: 0810 - 1015
Conditions: Clear skies, pleasant temperatures
Participants: Alan Wilson, Ahn Mai, JB and Penny - Hecla Mining; Tony Gallegos, Tom Munson - DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To evaluate the status of the suspended mine site while in the area

We met at the Hecla mill facilities located on the Piute Shivwits Reservation. There we met Ahn Mai, Alan Wilson, JB and Penny. Alan, JB and Penny accompanied us to the minesite from the mill. The millsite is not permitted by the Division since it is on the reservation. For information purposes, the millsite was recently sold to a company known as the OM Group (OMG). The O is for Outokumpu and the M is for Moody Chemicals. At this time Hecla is also considering selling the mine which is in a state of suspension.

The access road has a locked gate restricting access to the mine site. The access road to the mine site connects to the county road. This short section of mine access road is included as part of reclamation for the site. This mine site was operated by St. George Mining prior to Hecla's operation. From the main portal area you can see a disturbance higher up on the slope. This area, visible as some brown soils, was part of the St. George Mining operation disturbance and is not considered part of the Apex disturbance. The Paymaster Shaft is located at this upper disturbance and supposedly has been sealed off.

At the Apex portal area is a transformer substation relay at the end of the power line. We were told this substation is the property of UP&L and they will be responsible for removal or reclamation of those features.

The main portal entrance to the mine is currently gated and locked. There is a maintenance building nearby, which is an empty metal building with concrete foundation. There is another building which was the office/dry facility which is also a metal building with a concrete floor and sheetrock walls. There is a second mine entry nearby which is the escapeway. This mine



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entrance is gated with a welded rebar grate. This grate appears to be secure at this time. A small quarry disturbance is located adjacent to the main portal pad area near the escapeway end of the pad. This quarry was a source of gravel which was used in the backfilling of the underground workings when the mine was active.

Photographs were taken of the general area and disturbances. The site has been inactive since approximately 1990. Other features at the site include two water tanks, which are located up and above the main portal site. There is a concrete pad located near the transformer station where a fuel tank used to be. The fuel tank has been removed. There is a vertical silo which was used to store and distribute dry concrete. The concrete was mixed with aggregate and also used in the backfilling operation. There was a small amount of rust colored ore material where the ore used to be stockpiled. To our knowledge, there is no radioactive hazard associated with the ore; although the mine workings do contain radon gas. There is a level pad area off the access road near the gate entrance. This pad was the location of the security guard trailer. This area was not specifically mentioned in any of the reclamation plans, but it may need to be reclaimed. Further down the access road below the locked gate, is what appears to be a dump or rubbish area. We did not visit this area. It is unknown if this site is included in the reclamation plan; however, some reclamation of this area may be needed.

The mine site itself is believed to be on patented claims. This will need to be verified by a review of the file. The access road to the mine is believed to be on BLM lands down to where it intercepts the county road.

jb
cc: Alan Wilson, Hecla Mining Co., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
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